Climate Outlook and Summary For the Central United States For the Upcoming Winter Season

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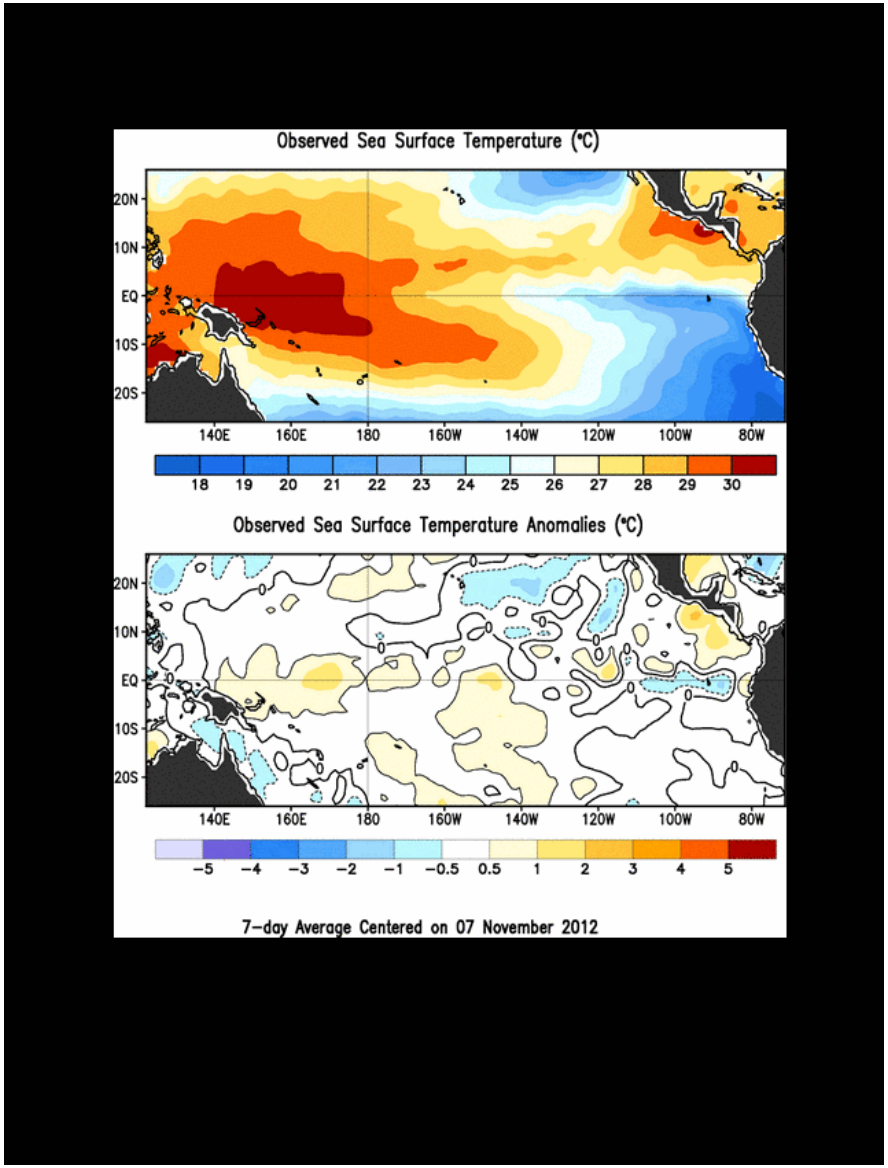
Pacific Ocean Sea Surface Temperatures

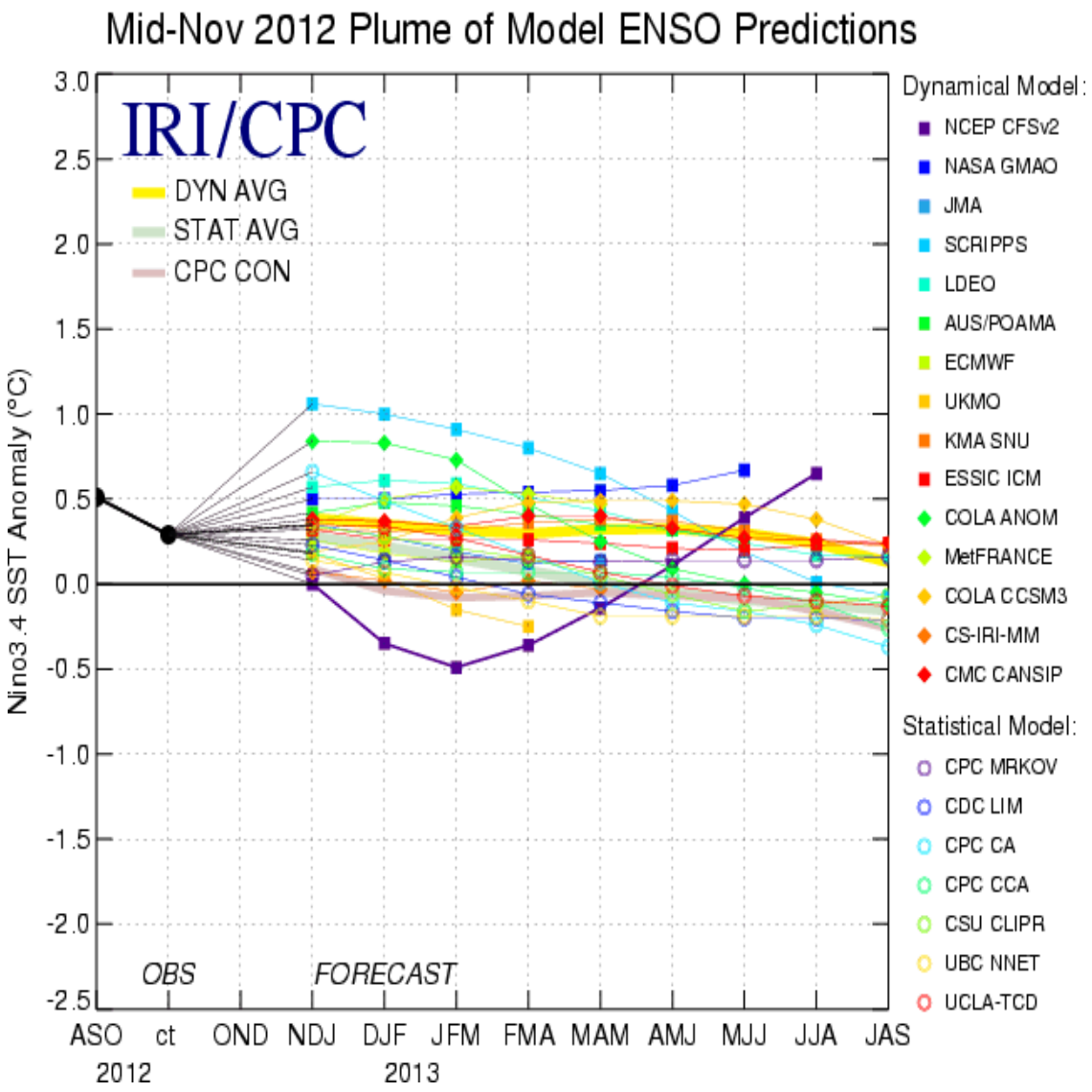
The El Niño watch has been discontinued with ENSO-neutral more likely through summer 2013

Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) across the eastern equatorial Pacific have warmed slightly over the past month but still reflect near normal conditions. All of the weekly SST departures in the Niño regions ranged between +0.2 ºC in the Niño 1+2 region to +0.6 ºC across the Niño 4 region as of November 13th, and the last three-monthly SST anomaly in Niño 3.4 was +0.4 ºC in August through October.
Positive subsurface SST anomalies have strengthened slightly the past several weeks across the eastern equatorial Pacific. In general, the oceanic and atmosphere anomalies recently noted all reflect near normal conditions or ENSO-neutral.



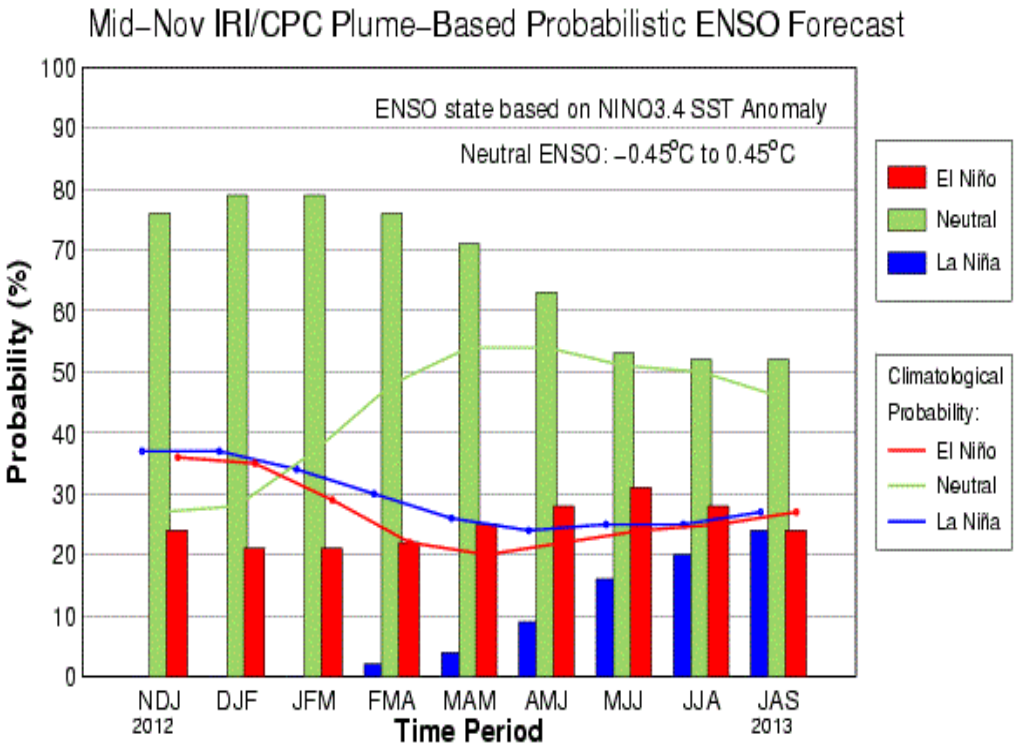
ENSO Model Predictions

The latest ENSO dynamical model forecasts of Niño 3.4 SST anomalies are clustered around 0 ºC to +0.5 ºC, which would indicate ENSO-neutral conditions at least through summer 2013. The NCEP CFSv2 model appears to be an outlier at this time.



ENSO Model Predictions continued

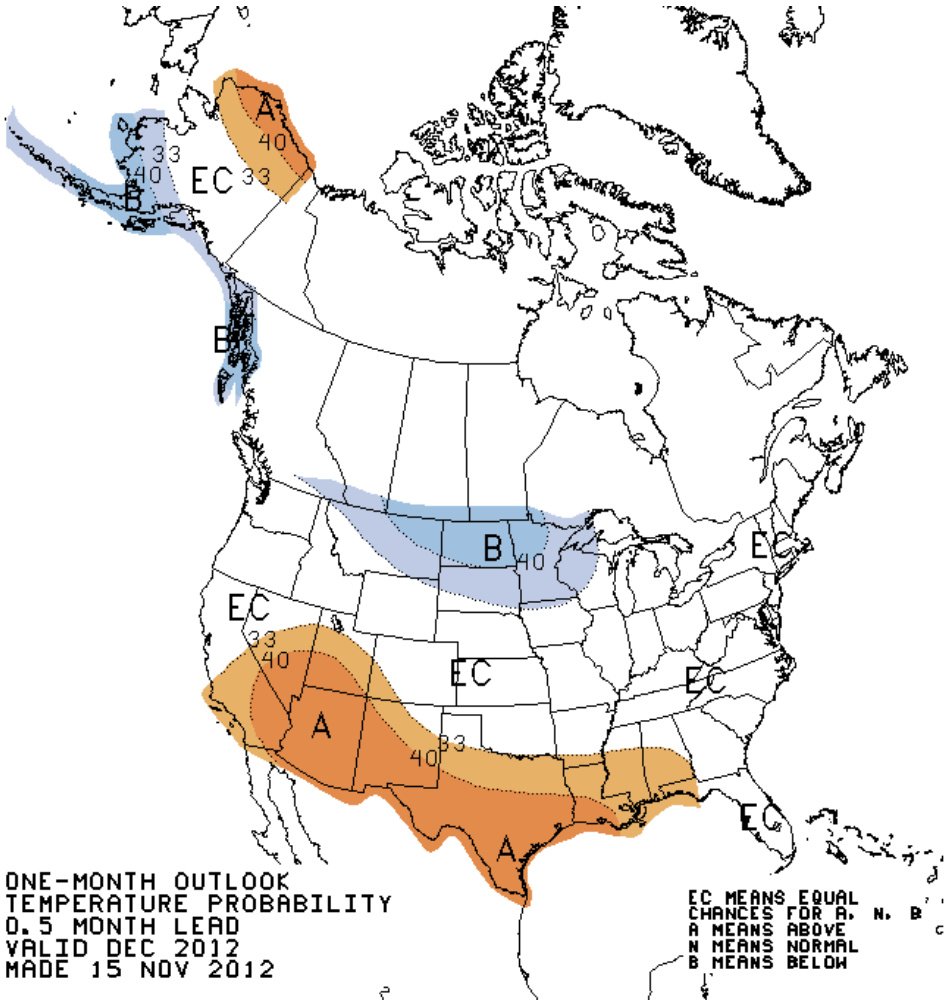
The probability of ENSO-neutral conditions through the summer of 2013 is at about 60% with decreasing chances of El Niño.



One Month Temperature Outlook
For the Central United States

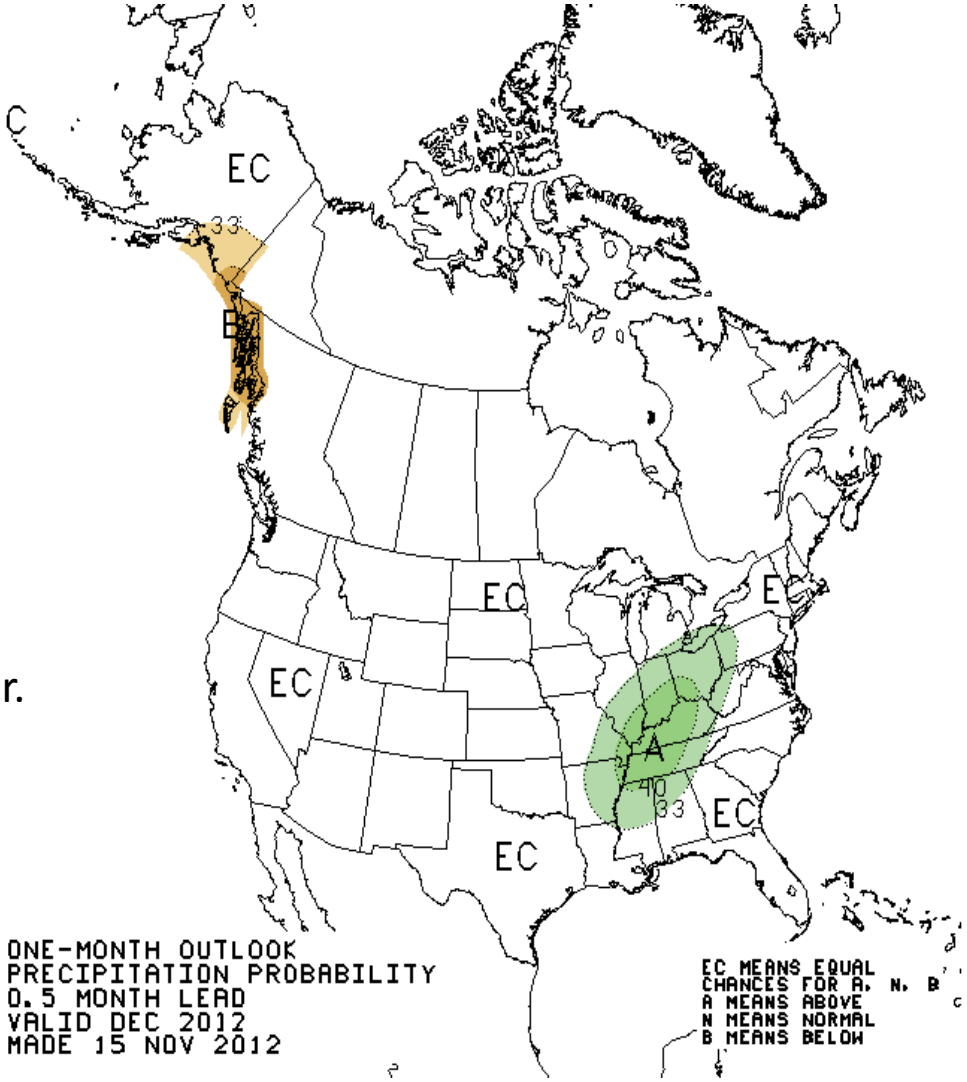
Based on ENSO-neutral conditions there are enhanced chances for below normal temperatures across the northern Plains and Upper Midwest. However, areas from the Eastern Great Lakes to the central Plains and central Rockies have equal chances for above, below and near average temperatures in December.

This forecast is based on dynamic models and statistical indicators.



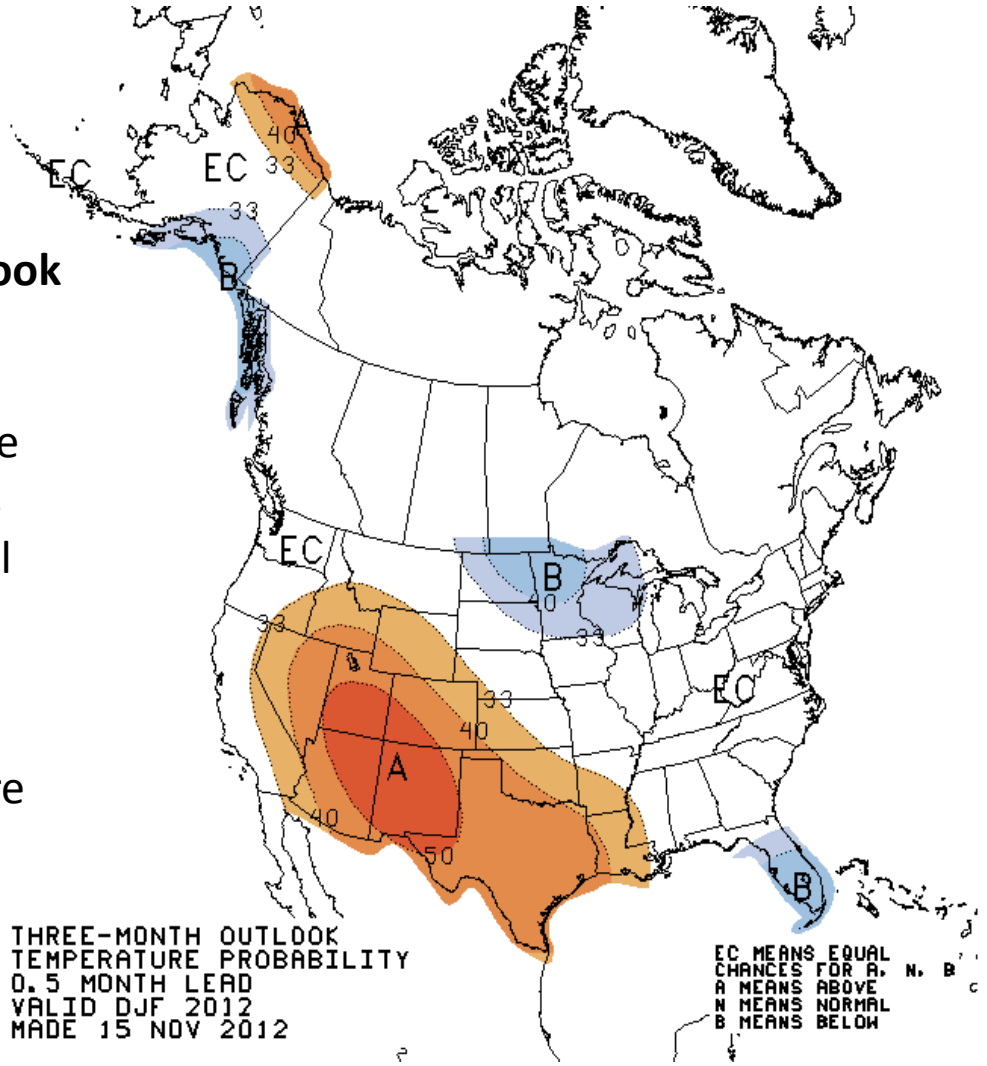
One Month Precipitation Outlook for the Central United States

There are enhanced chances for above normal precipitation in the Ohio Valley but much of the Central U.S. is favored for equal chances of above, below and near average precipitation in December.



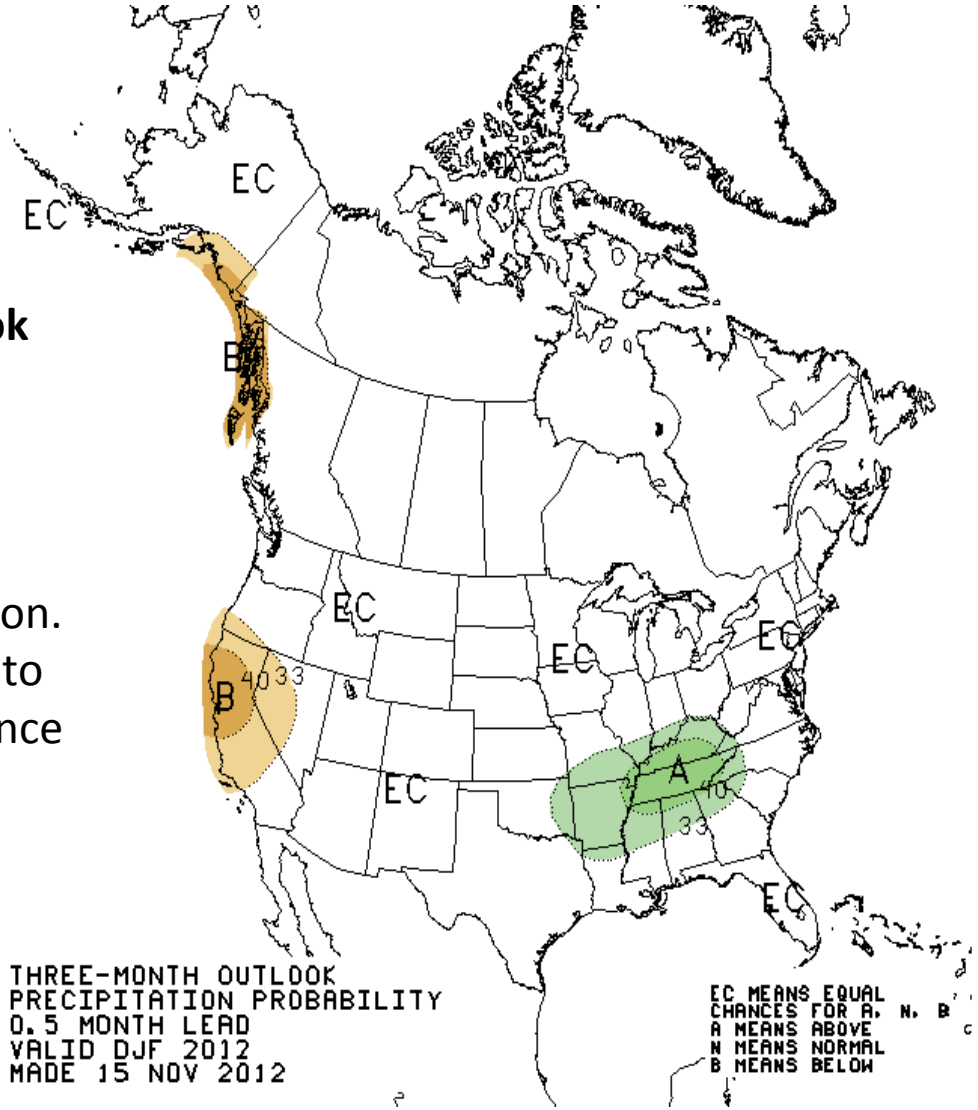
Winter Three Month Temperature Outlook
For the Central United States

During the winter season, portions of the Dakotas over to the western Great Lakes have enhanced chances of below normal temperatures. Portions of Wyoming, Colorado and Kansas have enhanced chances of above normal temperatures. Elsewhere in the Central Region there are equal chances of above, below and near normal temperatures.



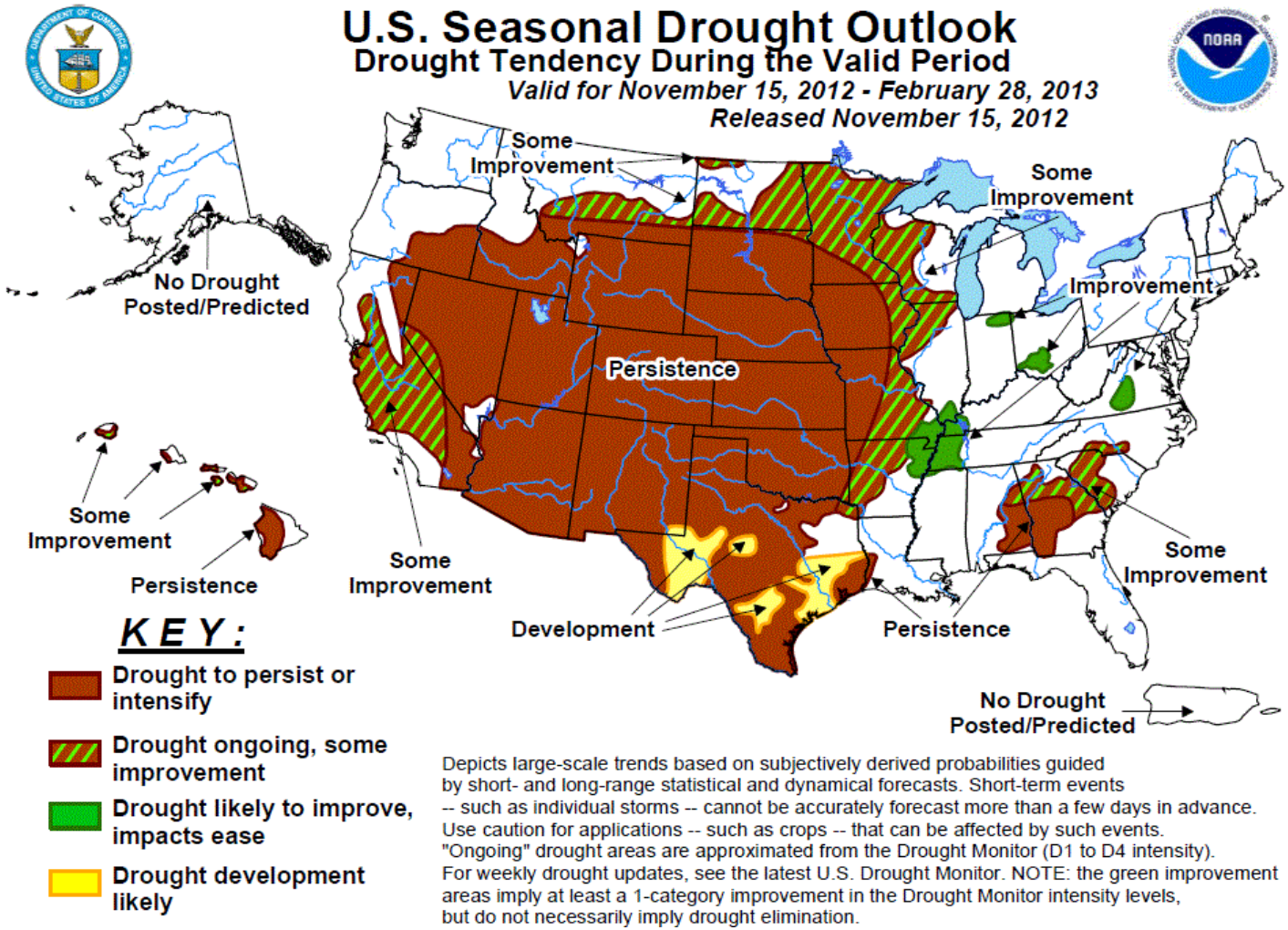
Winter Three Month Precipitation Outlook
For the Central United States

During the winter season, much of the Central Region will have equal chances of above, below and near average precipitation. The exception is the area from the Ozarks to Kentucky where there is an enhanced chance of above normal precipitation.



Seasonal Drought Outlook For the Central United States

The most recent Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates much of the area from southwest Minnesota to western Missouri through most of the Great Plains and Rockies will continue to experience drought conditions through the winter season. However, some improvement is expected on the eastern fringe of this area from North Dakota into Minnesota and Wisconsin, eastern Iowa into eastern Missouri.



The following links show some of the ENSO composites that were used to make these forecasts.

CPC ENSO Box & Whisker Analysis:
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/ENSO/box_whiskers/index.php

El Nino and La Niña-Related Winter Features over North America:
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/ENSO/composites/EC_LNT_index.shtml

Winter Composites:
http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensocycle/nawinter.shtml